

THE KING AND QUEEN
197

Sumitra

Tell me, father, who are
hungry ?

Devadatta

It is their ill-fate. The King's
poor
subjects have been practising
long to
live upon half a meal a day,
but they
have not yet become experts
in complete
starvation. It is
amazing.

Sumitra

But, father, the land is
smiling with
ripe corn. Why should the
King's
subjects die of hunger ?

Devadatta

The corn is his* whose is the
land,—
it is not for the poor. They,
like
intruding dogs at the King's
feast,
crouch in the corner for their
crumbs*
or kicks.